Griscom Morgan

Rt. 1, Box 275
Yellow Springs,
Ohio 45387
July 23, 1970

Dear Hal:

Thanks for your prompt letter. And it prompts me to answer right away. I just spoke to my nephew Lee Morgan who is president of the Antioch Bookplate Company. The ABC has a highly proficient distribution system computerized and on the ball by which it distributes its products to all of the significant bookstores in the country. The bookstores expect the unusual from the ABC. For example, they have had as salesman a very independent and fine black fellow in the New York, Philadelphia area, and they have started having girls as salesman; last fall they had a fellow from India -- Indian, and he turned out to be one of their best salesmen, as they tried having an American Indian. The bookstores have been in the spirit of this and support the salesmen and enjoy having them on the job. They also are known as being politically independent. The ABC is thus free from having to fear the U.S. and the reactionaries as many publishers are. Lee had originally brought the doubts about the Kennedy assassination to my attention, and he deeply admires Martin Luther King. Lee felt that their printing facilities are not ideal for your job, but that they could get that work done for them. Lee wondered if he could see the manuscript if it might be possible that the ABC could do the publishing job. The ABC is short of capital and is having to borrow to tide itself over now. Perhaps a combination of forces and resources would be in order. At the very least this would give your book good distribution, although the advertising in the papers might be very skimpy.

The Antioch Bookplate Company working staff are a free and fine lot, with some black workers who would put their heart in the job as well as the top staff being all strong and committed people. To all of them King is a person deeply loved and respected.

If we could get the material edited and ready for press, or if your present typeing of the material could be used with but little editing and just put on the press, the remaining question would be how to get the financing. How about my raising this issue with Vince? I suppose the answer is that there are others who could have done this already if it could be done at all. It is conceivable that I could rustle up the capital here in Yellow Springs. Yellow Springs is unlike most places in this country in that people have a different slant on things and are more fearless. This is the place where Coretta King went to school -- college, and she has good roots here. Yellow Springs has a black chief of police, black president of the school board, black school principal, black head of its community council and civic organization, and this is not because of black voting power, but because of the convictions of the community. As a community we have put ourselves behind such causes with courage. The college could be with us too.

It is concieveable that you might do a very unorthodox thing in trying to kill two birds with one stone with Coup d'Etat: publish a volume that would be both the edited version and the complete manuscript without the expense of typing it over again. This would involve running a line down

the outside margin of the pages that should be included in the shorter edited version, giving the page numbers to skip to each time the line came to an end and it involved skipping to another page. The reader would then have the freedom to read the longer version whenever he wanted to, but would have quick access to the abbreviated version without being encumbered in his reading with the lengthly portions.

The quality and power of your writing reaches a very high quality in places that is a delight to the reader. There are many passages that stick in my mind vividly. Not one of the finest in power and strength, but one I felt particular enjoyment of was your description of your visit with Dean Andrews and his nice kissing you and speaking in approval of your understanding of Andrews. Similarly the narrative of getting phone calls at unlikely hours of the Memphis tape and of the plans to assassinate Garrison.

I had made a list of errors and lost it. I have record of only two or so. These are the second letter on page 13 that should be If instead of In at the top of the page, and I have a note of page 95 line 2, second paragraph "ples"

To change the subject, I would rephrase my idea about what I believe was a crucial factor that made the Warren report "take" with the public and Warren -- that Johnson so vigorously put through Kennedy's civil rights legislation and that J. Edger Hoover pressed the issue against the assassins of the civil rights three. Thus Johnson departed completely from his predessor in regard to overseas issues (which Kennedy had felt was most important in his ~~departures~~ administration) and yet pressed through the civil rights changes as Kennedy could not be expected to do successfully. This was so unexpected, and it was so dear a move to the progressives and to Warren that it took attention off from what was the real and central issue to the CIA and military who had backed up the assassinations by the ultra right just as they made possible the success and coverup of the later assassinations. My point is that Johnson and the CIA may have figured that action on civil rights was the necessary price of getting away with the coup d'etat. And that they were right about it. H.L. Hunt in effect deemed Johnson right about it in approving of Johnson's presidency, if my memory is sorrect on this, though his approval might have been more in regard to the oil depletion allowance.

Best wishes,

fraternally Gris

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